(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the volume of pendency of cases in the High Courts in 2005 and how far it has increased since 2004?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court in its recent judgment dated 3.4.2006 in C.A. No. 1867 of 2006 (arising out of SLP(C) No. 22523 of 2005)-in the matter of Malik Mazhar Sultan & Anr. *Vs* U.P. Public Service Commission & Ors. has directed all the States and UTs to strictly adhere to time schedule ensuring timely filling of vacancies.

In the above mentioned judgment, the Supreme Court has observed that the adherence to strict time schedule can ensure timely filling of vacancies and directed all State Governments, Union Territories and High Courts to provide for time schedule so that every year vacancies that may occur are timely filled. The Apex Court has directed all State Governments, Union Territories and High Courts to file within three months details of the time schedule so fixed and date from which time schedule so fixed would be operational.

As per available information, the volume of pendency in the High Courts is as given below:-

As on	Pendency
31.12.2005	35,31,774
31.12.2004	33,79,033
% increase	4.52%

Electrification of villages

*5.SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana' with an aim to provide electricity to every home within five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government have drawn any scheme to tap the available sources of alternative energy to meet the set targets;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of villages likely to be covered for electrification in each State during 2006-07;

(f) the allocation made for the same;

(g) the steps Government propose to take to achieve the aim; and

(h) the role of NTPC, NHPC and Power Grid Corporation under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Government of India has introduced "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) in April, 2005 with an aim to electrify all the villages over a period of four years.

The salient features of the RGGVY are as under:-

1. Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.
2. Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations and provision of distribution transformer(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.
3. Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from conventional sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).
4. REDB, VEI and DDG would also cater to the requirement of agriculture and other activities which would facilitate overall rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation.
5. The scheme *inter-alia* provides for financing of electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme in all rural habitations.

6. Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for projects.

7. In the management of rural distribution through franchisees who could be Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Users Association, Cooperatives or individual entrepreneurs, the Panchayat institutions would be associated. The franchisees arrangement could be for system beyond and including feeders from substation or from and including Distribution Transformer(s).

8. For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under the scheme, prior commitment of the States would also be obtained before sanction of projects under the scheme for:-

   - deployment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under the scheme, and
   - the provision of requisite revenue subsidies to the State Utilities as required under the Electricity Act, 2003.

9. Services of CPSUs have been offered to the states for assisting them in the execution of rural electrification projects as per their willingness and requirement.

   As per report of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Andhra Pradesh has 99.8% village electrification out of 26613 inhabited villages (2001 census) 26565 villages have been reported electrified. However, out of 12,676,218 rural households, only 7,561,733 rural households (59.65%) were having electricity as per 2001 census in Andhra Pradesh and accordingly four (4) projects have been sanctioned so far for intensive electrification.

(c) and (d) Those villages where grid extension is either not feasible or not cost effective are covered by Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) through non-conventional sources of energy under their Remote Village Electrification (RVE) programme.

(e) The number of villages likely to be covered for electrification in each State during 2006-07 is given in the Statement enclosed. (*See below*).

(f) Rs. 3000 crore have been allocated for the year 2006-07 under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).

(g) For attainment of the goal of RGGVY, the steps taken are:

- To augment the implementation capacities of State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities, the services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), REC has entered into Memoranda of Undertstanding (MOUs) with CPSUs like National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).
- For effective implementation of the project, REC has developed a framework covering guidelines for formulation of projects, bidding procedures for procurement of goods and services for projects to be executed on turn key basis, franchising under RGGVY; and also updation of existing REC's technical specifications for equipment/material and construction standards for adoption in project implementation/execution.
- Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are prepared district-wise for the purpose of cohesiveness and better implementation of projects.
- For speedier and effective implementation, the projects are executed on a turnkey basis.
- States have been advised to set-up district committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification works.
- The Government of India and also REC, the nodal agency for RGGVY, conduct frequent review meetings with the concerned State Governments and implementing agencies for expeditious implementation of the scheme as per agreed schedules.

(h) The Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely NTPC, NHPC and Power Grid Corporation and DVC are providing their project management expertise to the States agencies to use their services for implementation of RGGVY. On the request of State Governments CPSUs have taken up implementation of RGGVY in 131 districts of 11 States.

Statement

State-wise target of Village Electrification for 2006-07 under RGGVY

(Nos.)

1	2	3
1	Arunachal Pradesh	10
2	Assam	140
3	Bihar	12700
4	Jharkhand	250
5	J&K	10
6	Madhya Pradesh	100
7	Chhattisgarh	90
8	Manipur	5
9	Meghalaya	20
10.	Orissa	250
11.	Rajasthan	1150
12.	Uttar Pradesh	21600
13.	Uttaranchal	320
14.	West Bengal	3355
	TOTAL (States)	40000
	ALL INDIA	40000

*States not mentioned/covered above such as Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh. Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are almost 100% electrified.

Bio-mass energy for villages

*6. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to launch a mission for using bio-mass energy for villages in a big way;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and